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I.A.R.M.

I.A.E.P.M.

COPY
T67586/GE. 1050

18 August 1960

Bashrah Port Authority
BASHRAH

Dear Sirs:

As you have already been informed by Mr. Moghaddam, Head of the Khorramshahr General Port Directorate, arrangements are being made for the taking over by the Khorramshahr General Port Directorate of the berthing of vessels at Abadan port. We are therefore writing to advise you that we wish to discontinue the arrangements which have been in effect since 1954 under which this function has been undertaken by yourselves. We have been advised by the Imperial Iranian Government that the Khorramshahr General Port Directorate will assume responsibility for this function as from the 27th August 1960.

For your further information in this matter we are sending herewith an English translation of the Decree relating to the extension of the jurisdiction of the Port of Khorramshahr which came into effect on the 16th April 1960 under which the new functions of the Khorramshahr General Port Directorate are established. We are also sending herewith an English translation of the Imperial Ministry of Customs and Monopolies' letter no. 12257, dated 11 August 1960, notifying us of the date on which the Khorramshahr General Port Directorate will assume responsibility for the berthing of vessels at Abadan Port.

We understand that the Agents of the Shipping Companies concerned are being advised of this change of operations.

We should like to take this opportunity to thank you for the cooperation which you have shown at all times in ensuring the smooth running of navigation of vessels to Abadan Port and we hope that this will continue for the operations for which you will continue to remain responsible.

Yours faithfully,

signed: Edson W. Berlin

Encl. 2

cc: Mr. Moghaddam, Head Khrshr, Port Directorate

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Desp. 457 from Tehran

IRAQI PORTS ADMINISTRATION NOTICE

Date - 15 February 1961

No. 19/ADM. 38AX11

NOTIFICATION

To All Ships and Tankers Agents

It has been brought to our notice that Sd. Ali Mohd. Mukadam - the Director General of Khorramshahr Port Organisation - has issued a circular dated 23 August 1960 commending to the effect that a new port organisation has been established at Abadan in order to run the harbour masters duties, berthing and unberthing operations in Abadan Harbour. The organisation will cooperate with the Iraqi Ports Administration in organising the pilot service.

This Port Organisation of Abadan will similarly collect dues incurred in vessels and tankers against these services.

This Administration holds itself responsible for the services undertaken by the harbour masters in Abadan Port in accordance with the agreement concluded with the Consortium and signed on 12/10/54 by the competent authorities of the administration and the companies as well. Besides the Administration has never agreed with any party whatever either to alter this agreement or to abolish it and in accordance with this agreement, the same considers itself liable to maintain, as before, the services of the harbour masters in Abadan.

As you are well aware, the running of such services, i.e., berthing of tankers and other vessels in Abadan Harbour and movements of ships in that area by an organisation of no sufficient experience and the lack of a unified control for the movement of ships in the Shatt will endanger the navigational channels in Shatt-el Arab and render stoppage of navigation.

Such a result will be to no one's interest. On the contrary, it will be detrimental to the interest of all those concerned with vessels and tankers plying in Shatt-el Arab being entirely in Iraqi territorial waters.

Under these circumstances the Iraqi Ports Administration have no alternative but to do their best and take the prompt and necessary action to forbid the said organisation from carrying out such duties as will finally tend to hinder the navigations in Shatt-el Arab.

This Administration therefore has decided not to provide pilots to any vessel on which Iraqi harbour masters have not been allowed to carry out their duties of berthing and unberthing of vessels or oil tankers in Abadan Harbour.

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Desp. 457 from Tehran

17 February 1961

His Excellency A. Entezam,
Chairman of the Board of Directors,
National Iranian Oil Company,
TEHERAN.

Your Excellency:

We regret that we have to call to your attention a very serious situation which has developed in the Port of Abadan which, if allowed to continue over the next 48 hours, will result in curtailing the throughput at the Abadan Refinery due to our inability to ship products from Abadan and the resulting complete filling of storage at the Refinery.

The following is our understanding of the events which led to this situation.

The Khorramshahr Port Authority has announced that, as of 1800 hours on 16 February, Iranian berthing masters would be placed on vessels leaving and entering the Abadan Port. The Basrah Port Authorities objected to this and refused river pilotage. Iranian Pilots were then provided for the ships by the Khorramshahr Port Authority who also stipulated that unless Iranian Berthing masters were used, the customs clearance papers for the ships and cargoes would not be forthcoming. We understand that the Basrah Authorities then stated that they would close the channel at the Bar to all vessels under Iranian pilotage.

The present position is that two fully loaded tankers are at Abadan Jetty ready to sail. However, the Captains of the Tankers who, of course, have full authority over the movements of the ships, refuse to sail until the situation is clarified. Two tankers and one cargo vessel destined for Abadan are now riding anchorage at Bawarda Reach; four tankers destined for Abadan now at Bar; all tankers and vessels destined for Abadan being held at Bar other than those already at Abadan and anchored at Bawarda Reach

You are, of course, aware that these events are entirely outside the control of the Operating Companies. We can assure you of our full cooperation as in the past when we provided fully qualified berthing masters and facilities for the Khorramshahr Port Authority.

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This administration holds the Abadan Organisation answerable for the consequences which arise as a result of the individual actions taken by this organisation without consulting this administration.

We hope that your organisation will cooperate with this administration as not allow any unauthorised persons by this administration to pilot vessels or tankers held by your agency to carry out harbour masters services in Abadan. We will, however, not fail to take severe measures against agents of vessels who will give way to contravene this notification so that we may ensure the safety of this administration.

Director General
Iraqi Ports Administration

UV At 8:55 AM 18.2.61 JG
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The masters of the vessels are not under our control but are in full command of their own vessels and under the above conditions where Iraqi authorities state they will close the channel to all vessels under Iranian river pilotage, they have no recourse but to remain in Abadan.

You will appreciate the seriousness of the situation as the smooth operation of tankers to and from the Port of Abadan is essential to the continued present high throughput at Abadan and that, unless this situation is rectified within the next 24 hours, we will be unfortunately forced to take measures to start reducing the throughput of Abadan Refinery and the reduction of crude deliveries from Fields to the Refinery.

With the assurances of my highest esteem,

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) E. W. Berlin

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IRAANSE AARDOLIE EXPLORATIE EN PRODUCTIE MAATSCHAPPIJ
(Iranian Oil Exploration and Producing Co) N.V.

P. O. Box 1619
Teheran (Iran)

February 18, 1961

The Director General
of the Iraqi Port's Administration,
BASRAH - Iraq

Excellency,

We refer to our letter addressed to you No. 107586/GE 1030, dated 18 August 1960, concerning the berthing and unberthing of vessels at the port of Abadan. In our letter we forwarded a copy of a Decree of the Imperial Iranian Government establishing the Khorramshahr General Port Directorate. The Iranian Government having given us the assurance that they are acting in accordance with their legal rights asked us to use only berthing masters provided by the Khorramshahr General Port Directorate and we advised you of our wish to terminate the voluntary arrangement made in October 1954 for the supplying of a service of berthing and unberthing of vessels at Abadan by your Administration.

We now understand that following on the Iraqi Port's Administration Notification to Shipping No. 19 ADM. 38 AX11, dated 15 February 1961, your Administration has decided not to allocate pilots to vessels which have been berthed or unberthed in Abadan without employing the harbour masters of your Administration. The reason given for such action is that the berthing of vessels in Abadan by an organisation other than your Administration might constitute a hazard to shipping on the Shatt.

We should like to assure you, however, that from our experience of shipping at Abadan, we are of the opinion that unberthing and berthing of vessels by a separate authority can be carried out satisfactorily at Abadan with no fears of hazards arising by reason of this separate administration, and we will afford all assistance necessary regarding information of vessels berthing and unberthing to enable the necessary cooperation to be achieved between the two Authorities. Furthermore, experienced and competent personnel are at the disposal of the Khorramshahr General Port Directorate. Thus, we do not fore-

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see that the operations of the Khorramshahr General Port Directorate at Abadan will in any way detract from the control of shipping on the river. We therefore believe, that, with mutual understanding, satisfactory arrangements can be made for the taking and handing over of vessels calling at Abadan between the river pilots of your Administration and the berthing masters of the Khorramshahr General Port Directorate.

We trust that, with the above explanation, you will be agreeable to resuming the pilotage service of the vessels calling at Abadan and thus avoid continuation of losses now being incurred by all concerned.

Yours very sincerely,

Edson W. Berlin

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